

BEST AVAILABLE COPIE

**REMARKS**

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed October 7, 2003. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

**Present Status of Patent Application**

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 13-22 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, claim 12 has been canceled, and claims 13-16 and 18-21 have been currently amended to address and overcome the Office action rejection of these claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

**A. Interview Summary**

Applicant wishes to express his sincere appreciation for the time the Examiner spent with the undersigned during a telephone discussion on December 3, 2003, regarding the outstanding final Office Action. Amendment of outstanding claims to obtain allowance of all claims was discussed. Specifically, amendment of claim 13, which was objected to in the Final Office Action, was discussed in further detail. The Examiner re-iterated his position on claim 13 and indicated that such an amendment, together with amendments of other claims to make them dependent on amended claim 13, would be considered favorably.

**B. Allowable subject matter**

The Office Action indicates that Claim 13 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 13 has been amended suitably to place it in condition for allowance.

Since independent claim 13 is allowable over the prior art references of record, then dependent claims 14-22, of which claims 14-16 and 18-21 have been currently amended to make them depend on claim 13, are also allowable as a matter of law. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Accordingly, Applicant requests claims 13-22 be allowed.

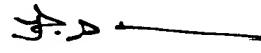
**Prior Art Made of Record**

The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that claims 13-22 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



P. S. Dara  
Reg. No. 52,793

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,  
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**  
Suite 1750  
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339  
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on December 4, 2003.

Evelyn Sanders  
Signature